

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
9 September 2005 (09.09.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/083679 A1**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **G10L 19/00**

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/IB2005/050533

(22) International Filing Date: 11 February 2005 (11.02.2005)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
04100631.3 17 February 2004 (17.02.2004) EP

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

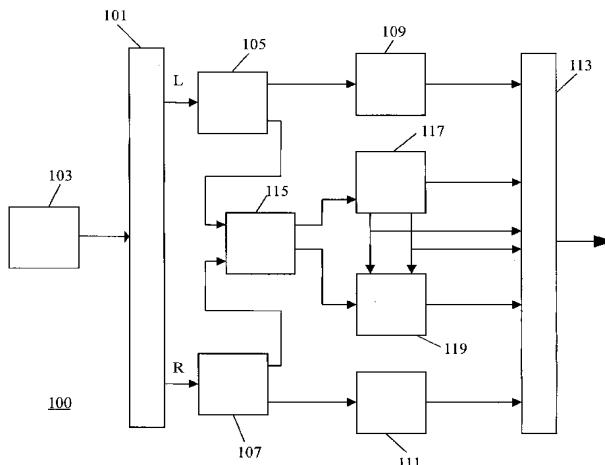
(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

#### Declaration under Rule 4.17:

— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM,

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(54) Title: AN AUDIO DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM, AN AUDIO ENCODER, AN AUDIO DECODER AND METHODS OF OPERATION THEREFORE



(57) Abstract: A stereo audio encoder (100) comprises a parametric stereo encoder (115) which generates a mono signal and parametric stereo parameters for at least a high frequency part of an input stereo signal. A stereo intensity encoder (117) generates stereo intensity data for the mono signal. The mono signal and intensity data are encoded in accordance with an encoding standard such as MPEG Layer II and the parametric stereo parameters are included in the ancillary data sections by an output processor (113). Thus, a legacy decoder (such as an MPEG Layer II decoder) may generate a stereo signal using the stereo intensity data whereas a higher complexity decoder may generate a high quality audio signal using the parametric stereo parameters. A stereo decoder (200) receives the encoded data from the encoder (100). An intensity decoder (203) generates a stereo signal using intensity data. This is fed to a parametric stereo decoder (207) which processes the stereo signal in accordance with extracted parametric stereo data.

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PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY,  
TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA,  
ZM, ZW, ARIPO patent (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ,  
NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM,  
AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT,  
BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR,  
HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK,  
TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ,  
GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG)

**Published:**

— with international search report

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